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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 001308

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SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/EU: APPROACHING THE EU IN ADVANCE OF
THE JUNE 12 GAERC

REF: STATE 91167

Classified By: Political Officer Ted Burkhalter; reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (U) Poloff and intern delivered reftel demarche June 7 and 8, to policy officers of the MFA Political Affairs and European Integration Departments. Substantive responses follow.

Balkans

12. (C) The GONL expects Serbia/Montenegro to dominate discussion of the Balkans, particularly the issue of EU aid in implementing a friendly divorce. The Dutch will try to avoid any perception that Montenegro will get a free ride to EU membership.

Iraq

13. (C) The Dutch feel the EU should be fully engaged in Iraq. They do not, however, expect dramatic movement at the GAERC.

Cuba

14. (C) The GONL does not favor warmer EU relations with Cuba, unless and until the Cubans make substantial progress on human rights. The Dutch expect the EU to formally express concern over increasing persecution of dissidents.

Middle East Peace

15. (C) The Council will review the development of a temporary assistance mechanism. The GONL does not have a position on President Abbas' referendum proposal, but policy officers at MFA expressed strong interest in the idea.

Iran

16. (C) The Dutch did not want to speculate. With events moving so quickly, they felt much would depend on Solana's report of his trip to Tehran.

Energy

17. (C) The GONL feels the EU is not using its foreign policy muscle sufficiently to address energy supply and management issues. The Benelux countries have submitted a paper, calling on member states to devote more attention to these concerns.

